

EDUCATION PROGRAMS. Curriculum-based education programs are offered free of charge Monday through Friday, as weather and staff availability permit. These programs generally last 45 minutes to 1 hour. Reservations for these programs must be made prior to your visit. To reserve a date for a program, call the park at (540) 721-2094. We suggest that you book your selected tour date as far in advance as possible. Dates in April, May and October fill up quickly. We do not accept rain dates; however, every effort is made to reschedule a tour to everyone's convenience.

PLANTATION TRAIL. The Plantation Trail is a ¼-mile loop through the historic area. It passes by reconstructions of the nineteenth century farm buildings similar to those that stood on the Burroughs Plantation when Booker T. Washington lived here as a boy. You are invited to explore the open buildings and read from the park brochure about the kinds of activities that took place in each.

JACK-O-LANTERN BRANCH HERITAGE TRAIL. In addition to the Plantation Trail, the monument provides an opportunity for a 1½-mile meandering walk through fields and forests on the Jack-O-Lantern Branch Trail. Trail guides are available in the visitor center.

Cell Phone Audio Tour. There are several opportunities for you to use your cell phone to obtain information about the places you will see as you walk around Booker T. Washington National Monument. Just dial and discover the stories of this National Park Service site. Dial (540) 204-9201, then press the tour stop number.

PICNIC AREA. A picnic area in a wooded setting is available for your use. There you will find picnic tables, grills, and a water fountain. Restrooms are located adjacent to the visitor center.

There is no admission fee.

All programs consist of outdoor activities. Please dress appropriately for the weather.

The park's bookstore is stocked with postcards, bookmarks, Junior Ranger Programs, books and various educational media.

DIRECTIONS. The monument is located on VA. 122 (Booker T. Washington Highway), 22 miles southeast of Roanoke, Virginia. From I-81, take I-581, then U.S. 220 south from Roanoke to VA 122. From the Blue Ridge Parkway, take VA 43 south to VA 122. From Lynchburg, take U.S. 460 west to VA 122.



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT

Monumental Education



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT

On April 5, 1856, a child who later called himself Booker T. Washington was born in slavery on this 207-acre tobacco farm. The realities of life as a slave in the Piedmont of Virginia, the quest by African Americans for education and equality, and the post-war struggle over political participation all shaped the options and choices of Booker T. Washington. Washington founded Tuskegee Institute in Alabama in 1881 and later became an important and controversial leader at a time when increasing racism in the United States made it necessary for African Americans to adjust themselves to a new era of legalized oppression.

Booker T. Washington National Monument preserves and protects the birthplace and childhood home of Booker T. Washington, while interpreting his life experiences and significance in American history as the most powerful African American between 1895 and 1915. The park provides a resource for public education and a focal point for continuing discussions about the legacies of Booker T. Washington and the evolving context of race in American society. Visitors are invited to step back in time and experience firsthand the life and landscape of people living when slavery was part of the American experience.

The five on-site experiences described within this brochure build the foundation of Booker T. Washington National Monument's Educational Program. Each program has been created by incorporating the interpretive goals of the park with the Commonwealth of Virginia's Standards of Learning (SOLs). For more information about park programs please visit our website at www.nps.gov/bowa/rangers.html.



Pre K-First Grade DOWN ON THE FARM

"Success is to be measured not so much by the position one has reached in life, as by the obstacles in which he has overcome while trying to succeed."

Booker T. Washington

In this program, students participate in a storyboard activity and a walk that helps students compare their lives to the enslaved child, Booker. Students see, touch and smell life on the mid-19th century Burroughs plantation. While exploring objects and clothing related to Washington and the farm, students understand the very personal meaning of slavery as seen through the eyes of a young boy.



TIES TO VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING (SOLS):	
Curriculum Area	Learning Standards
History	K.1, K.2, K.5a, b, K.6, K.7a, b; 1.1
Science	K.1b, c, K.2a, K.6a, b, c, 1.5

Grades 2-3

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

“A race, like an individual, lifts itself up by lifting others up.”

Booker T. Washington

The Burroughs’ plantation was rich in natural, capital, and human resources. Students will learn that 150 years ago slaves were valuable human resources here on the farm and experience firsthand how simple machines were used to assist with everyday chores.

Discussing Washington’s self-reliance and self-discipline to secure an education, his commitment to teaching others and his ascension to national leadership, students learn how education improved Washington’s life and how he used it to better the lives of people he touched and influenced. Booker T. Washington’s struggle up from slavery is a model for children today.



Grades 4-6

WAR ON THE HOME FRONT

“Freedom cannot be given; it must be purchased.”

Booker T. Washington

How did the debate on slavery and the Civil War affect the slave-holding farms and plantations in the South? How did the slaves and owners react to the creation of the Confederacy and the Civil War?

During a visit to Booker T. Washington National Monument and using pre- and post-visit classroom activities, students discuss the causes and effects of the war and how people on the home front viewed the war. Comparing and contrasting the experiences of men and women, owners and slaves during the Civil War and as a result of the Emancipation Proclamation, students evaluate how these events affected both master and slave living on the Burroughs’ plantation.



TIES TO VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING (SOLS):	
Curriculum Area	Learning Standards
History	2.3, 2.7, 2.10d
Science	2.5b, 2.7b, 2.8, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5,3.8

TIES TO VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING (SOLS):	
Curriculum Area	Learning Standards
History	VS.1a, VS.4a, VS.7a, c; VS.8a,b, USI.1a, b, e; USI.5d, USI.9b, USI.9f

Grades 6-8

CAST DOWN YOUR BUCKET!

“Racial battles are to be won by marching forward, not by holding back.”

Booker T. Washington

After the Civil War, this country adopted the 13th, 14th and 15th Constitutional Amendments which provided voting and other citizenship rights to African American men.

Efforts to take away these new liberties began as the Reconstruction Era ended. A leader in the post-Reconstruction era, Booker T. Washington was the most prominent voice for African Americans at a time when equality was only a dream. Washington urged our nation to “cast down your bucket” into the waters of equality and liberty for all.

During their visit to Booker T. Washington National Monument, students explore the Southern plight from the end of the Civil War through the turn of the 20th century as African Americans struggled, fought and even died for the right to vote. Students analyze the politics and commercial industries of the South, examine the speeches of Washington and W.E.B DuBois, and debate the economic and social philosophies of both men. While analyzing, describing and discussing the climate of the post-Reconstruction South, students discover that drive and determination can change a nation.



TIES TO VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING (SOLS):	
Curriculum Area	Learning Standards
History	VS.4a, VS.7a, VS.8a, b, USI.1a, USI.5c, USI.8d, USI.9d, e, f; USII.3a, b, USII.4c



Grades 10-11

CLASH OF THE TITANS

“In the final test, the success of our race will be in proportion to the service that it renders to the world. In the long run the badge of service is the badge of sovereignty.”

Booker T. Washington

Although Booker T. Washington was a nationally respected African American leader, there were many of his own race who opposed his views, especially the prominent African American leader, W.E.B. Du Bois.

While visiting the birthplace of Booker T. Washington, students explore the question of how one is influenced by one’s environment. Students contrast and compare Washington’s experiences as a young man to the experiences of his most notable critics and one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Du Bois.

Students analyze, compare and contrast the philosophies, speeches and written documents of these leaders during the turn of the 20th century—an era plagued with lynchings and movements to disenfranchise African-Americans. These comparisons provide insight into what motivated these two African American men to develop the opposing social philosophies that propelled them into leadership roles at the beginning of the 20th century.

TIES TO VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING (SOLS):	
History	VUS.1c, VUS.1d, VUS.1h and VUS.8c